

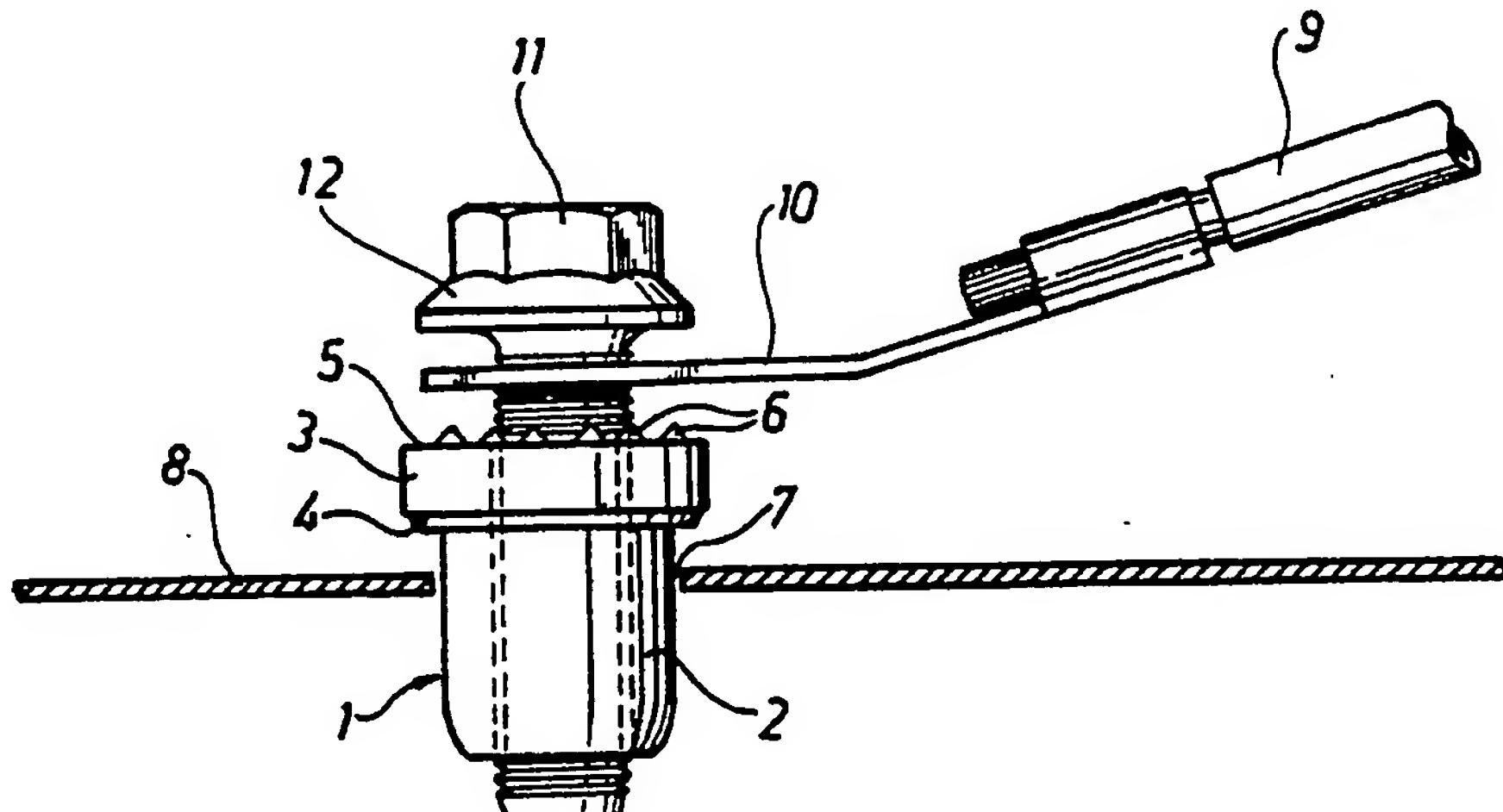


## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(54) Title: ELECTRICAL CONTACT NUT



## (57) Abstract

The invention concerns an electrical contact nut (1) primarily intended to be welded to a sheet steel component (8) of a motor vehicle, and comprising a first, preferably cylindrical portion (2) and a second, wider portion (3) at one end of the first portion (2). On its side facing the first portion (2), the second portion (3) is provided with an annular member (4) of a weldable material. By means of its first portion (2), the nut (1) may be introduced into an aperture (7) formed in the sheet metal component (8) until the annular welding member (4) abuts against the sheet metal component (8). In this position, the nut may be welded to the component (8).

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ELECTRICAL CONTACT NUT

5       The subject invention concerns an electrical contact nut designed to be welded onto a sheet metal component, primarily onto motor vehicle sheet steel components. The nut comprises a first, preferably cylindrical portion and a second portion with larger width dimensions than the  
10      first portion.

Electrical contact nuts of this kind are used above all within the automobile industry. The nut is applied in alignment with an aperture formed in the vehicle body, and on the opposite side of the sheet steel a cable socket is  
15      attached to the sheet metal in alignment with the aperture, with the aid of a screw-threaded bolt having a head thereon, which bolt is screwed onto the nut. In this manner an earth connection point is provided in the vehicle body.

20      This prior-art technology suffers from several drawbacks. When the nut is welded to the sheet metal component, care must be taken to ensure that the nut is maintained in an exact position in alignment with the aperture, or else it becomes impossible to screw the bolt  
25      into the nut. In addition, it is necessary that the sheet metal side opposite the nut side exhibits a smooth and even surface in order to allow satisfactory earth connection to be established. However, the smoothness of the surface also means that the cable socket mounted at  
30      the end of a cable to be secured to the sheet metal component tends to co-rotate with the bolt as the latter is tightened, and consequently some kind of immobilizing force must be exerted on the socket, which complicates the mounting operation.

35      Should the nut for some reason loosen with respect to the sheet metal and for that reason fall off, for

instance in connection with untightening of the connection in order to replace the cable, it may be difficult to weld on a fresh nut, since the latter has to be applied on the side of the sheet metal component that from the

5 assembler's point of view is the reverse or inner side of the sheet metal component. Another complication is that it may be difficult to dissociate the bolt from the loose nut because of the co-rotation of the latter while at the same time access to the nut is difficult.

10 With the advent of the electrical contact nut in accordance with the subject invention the drawbacks outlined in the foregoing are eliminated. The features characterizing the invention are defined in the appended claims.

15 The invention will be described in closer detail in the following with reference to the accompanying drawing figures, in which:

Fig. 1 is a sectional view through a sheet metal component including an earth connection point embodying 20 the electrical contact nut in accordance with the invention, and

Fig. 2 illustrates the electrical contact nut welded to the sheet metal component in an alternative manner.

The electrical contact nut 1 comprises a first, 25 preferably cylindrical portion 2, and a second, likewise preferably cylindrical portion 3 which is formed integral with the first portion 2 but is wider than the latter. On its side facing the first portion 2, the second portion 3 is provided with an annular member 4 of a weldable material. On its opposite side 5, the second portion 3 is 30 formed with studs 6, the function of which will be explained in the following.

The first portion 2 of the electrical contact nut 1 is arranged to be pushed into an aperture 7 formed in a 35 sheet metal component 8, which may be a motor vehicle sheet metal component, sufficiently far for the annular

welding member 4 to abut against the sheet metal 8. In this position, the nut 1 is welded firmly to the sheet metal component 8 and once this welding operation is completed, a reliable earth connection has been  
5 established.

To mount a cable 9 provided with a cable socket 10, the latter is screwed onto the nut 1 with the aid of a threaded bolt 11 which is threaded into the nut 1, a flange 12 on said nut pressing said cable socket 10  
10 against the studs 6 formed on the front or external side 5 of the nut 1. The studs 6 penetrate into the material of the cable socket 10, preventing the latter from co-rotating with the bolt 11 when the latter is tightened.

By means of the electrical contact nut in accordance  
15 with the invention the drawbacks referred to in the foregoing and found in prior-art electrical contact nuts are removed. The nut 1 is easily introduced into the aperture 7, in which it is maintained in position while being welded to the sheet metal component 8. There is no  
20 need for any position-retaining measures of any kind, in contrast to what is the case, when the nut 1 is applied against the sheet metal component 8 on the opposite side thereof. In addition, and as explained in the foregoing, the studs 6 prevent the cable socket 10 from co-rotating  
25 with the bolt 11 when the latter is tightened, a phenomenon otherwise occurring when the cable socket 10 must be applied against the surface of the sheet metal component 8, which is painted.

In the event that, for instance as a result of  
30 vibrations in the sheet metal component 8, the nut 1 loses its grip on the latter, it will not fall off, when the bolt is loosened but will remain inside the aperture 7, and in the manner illustrated in Fig. 2 it may be re-attached to the component 8 in a simple manner by means of  
35 a fresh welding joint 13.

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The electrical contact nut 1 in accordance with the invention is not limited to the embodiment illustrated and described herein but may be varied in many ways within the scope of the appended claims. This applies both to the configuration of the nut 1 itself and to the type of frictional means formed on its outer face 5.

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CLAIMS

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1. An electrical contact nut intended to be welded to a sheet metal component (8), preferably a sheet metal component of a motor vehicle, and comprising a first, preferably cylindrical portion (2) and a second portion (3) having larger width dimension than the first portion (2), characterized in that the wider portion (3) of the nut (1) is formed on its side facing the first portion (2), with an annular member (4) of a weldable material, and in that by means of its said first portion (2) the nut (1) may be introduced into an aperture (7) formed in the sheet metal component (8) sufficiently far for said annular welding member (4) to abut against the sheet metal component (8), in which position the nut (1) may be welded to said sheet metal component (8).

20 2. An electrical contact nut as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that on its upper or front side (5), which is the side on the second nut portion (3) that corresponds to the one opposite the annular welding member (4), the nut (1) is provided with means (6) 25 designed to increase the friction against a component, such as a cable socket (10), mounted on said upper or front side (5).

30 3. An electrical contact nut as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that said means are studs (6) projecting from said upper or front side (5).

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Fig. 1

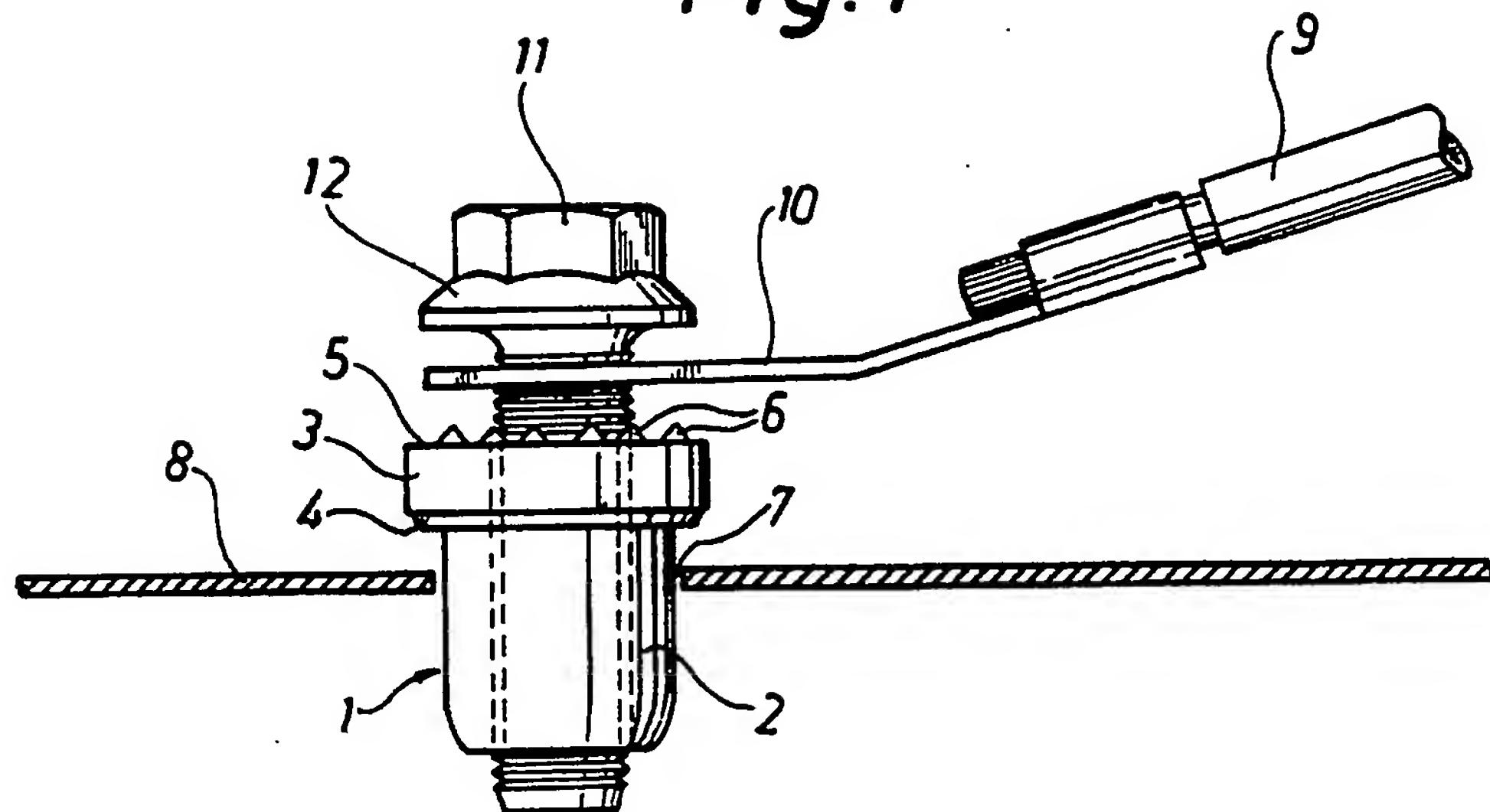
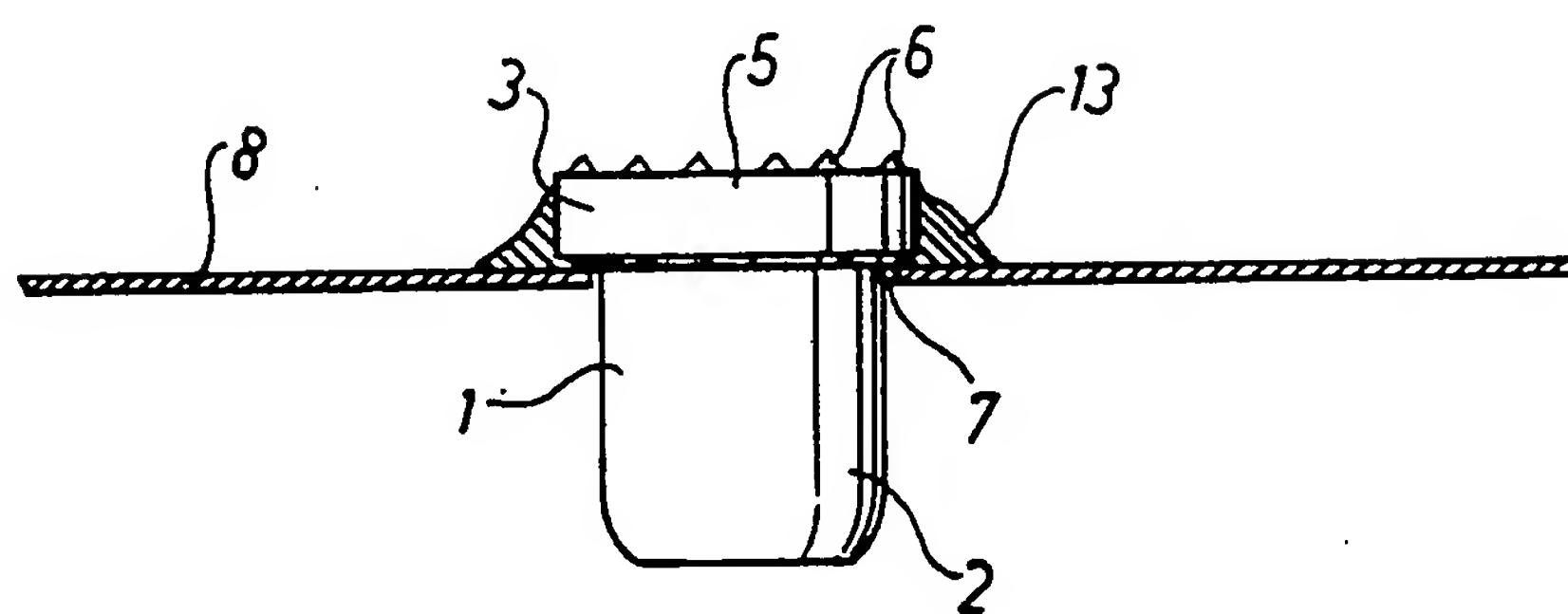
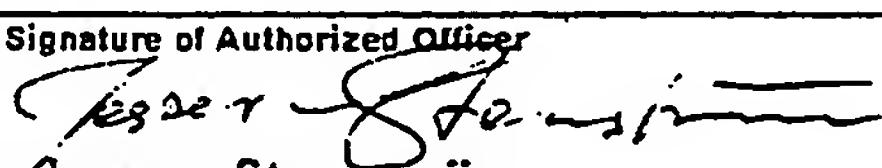


Fig. 2



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/SE 92/00419

<b>I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) <sup>6</sup> According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC <b>IPC5: F 16 B 37/06</b>		
<b>II. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum Documentation Searched <sup>7</sup>		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
IPC5	F 16 B	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in Fields Searched <sup>8</sup>		
SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above		
<b>III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT<sup>9</sup></b>		
Category <sup>10</sup>	Citation of Document, <sup>11</sup> with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages <sup>12</sup>	Relevant to Claim No. <sup>13</sup>
X	GB, A, 2151324 (DAIMLER-BENZ AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) 17 July 1985, see abstract; figures 1-2 --	1
Y	GB, A, 2120346 (HAN-CHEN CHANG ET AL) 30 November 1983, see page 1, line 30 - line 41; figure 1 --	2,3
Y	DE, A1, 3102939 (SPRINGFIX BEFESTIGUNGSTECHNIK GMBH) 2 September 1982, see figures 1-4 see page 7, second part - page 9, first part -- -----	2,3
A	DE, A1, 3102939 (SPRINGFIX BEFESTIGUNGSTECHNIK GMBH) 2 September 1982, see figures 1-4 see page 7, second part - page 9, first part --	1-3
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<b>IV. CERTIFICATION</b>		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
26th August 1992	17 -09- 1992	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
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**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT  
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report.  
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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		FR-A-B-	2560943	85-09-13
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		US-A-	4650274	87-03-17
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GB-A- 2120346	83-11-30	NONE		-----
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DE-A1- 3102939	82-09-02	EP-A-	0071615	83-02-16
		JP-A-	57144307	82-09-06
		WO-A-	82/02579	82-08-05